Brownfields Supplemental Assistance
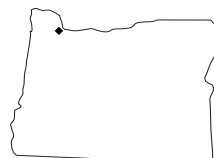
City of Portland, OR

BACKGROUND

EPA awarded the City of Portland supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and additional funding for assessments at brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. Portland has a long history of heavy industrial use along the Willamette River. Fear of potential environmental contamination from past uses has hindered redevelopment of land near the river.

The original EPA Pilot and the city's Showcase Community program focused on abandoned or underused properties around the city's Enterprise Community in North and Northeast Portland. An extensive public process has led to the selection of target sites and 12 Phase I assessments, two Phase II assessments, and one post-remediation assessment have been completed. The supplemental assistance will target the 130-acre North Macadam District located along the Willamette River in southwest Portland near the inner city. Environmental contamination from a history of industrial use and poor transportation in southwest Portland have significantly constrained redevelopment. However, the North Macadam District is in a highly desirable location for redevelopment. Properties affected by soil contamination already have been identified in the District through a Phase I assessment.

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Supplemental funding will support Phase II environmental assessments, cleanup planning, and ongoing outreach and involvement of residents and property owners in the North Macadam District. Specific brownfields sites will be identified and prioritized within the target area based on the greatest potential for redevelopment. The city plans mixed reuse for the District, leading to the creation of up to 10,000 new jobs and development of 3,000 housing units, plazas, and parks along the river. The Pilot also is expected to help establish public/private partnerships for future redevelopment of brownfields in North Macadam, with particular emphasis on future greenway development.

Greenspace funding will lay the groundwork for cleaning up potential large-scale contamination along the Willamette riverbank within the proposed North Macadam Greenway. The Greenway will provide a long-awaited extension to the Willamette River Greenway Trail and waterfront park. Streets extending from the greenway will connect pedestrian and bicyclists to surrounding neighborhoods and help connect the North Macadam District to the

neighborhood. Funding will be used for development of cleanup models specific to the site and for public outreach and involvement in the target project.

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting Phase II environmental assessments of priority redevelopment sites based on existing North Macadam District Phase I assessments;

- Developing a menu of innovative cleanup models appropriate for specific types of contamination and development categories; and

- Conducting public outreach and involvement to ensure participation in the cleanup and redevelopment process.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.